

I oppose media concentration!

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, the Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules.

No more deregulation! The concentration of radio broadcast frequency ownership in the Kansas City area has been a distaster.

I collect antique broadcast band radios; own perhaps 50 of them. I think restoring/ preserving these pieces of 1930s-1950s technology is a worthy and useful pastime.

Problem is, there's nothing worth listening to once I get them fixed. About all we get is evangelical preachers, "talk radio" by loud-mouthed and ignorant commentators, trivia masquerading as newscasts, endlessly repetitive programming on the music stations, and audio distortion under the rubric of "rock music."

The argument that the marketplace will dictate (and determine) content is valid only insofar as there's a real marketplace in terms of independent station ownership (hence independence of programming decisions, independence of advertising outlets, etc). When all the stations are under the control of one or a few owners, listener choices amount to (1) listening to the what's being offered by the few or (2) not listening. It's not much of a choice.

It's also a far cry from the times when radio had some REAL content.

Further deregulation will simply accelerate the trend toward media concentration in the hands of the powerful few. Depending on which side of the political fence one sits on, this may be good tactics. But it certainly isn't in the public interest.